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U.S. SAYS AIR STRIKE MAY VIOLATE ACCORD

Officials Unsure of Ramifications
— Habib Delays Start of Trip

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 8 — The United States today "condemned" the Israeli bombing of an Iraqi nuclear reactor and said Israel may have violated its aid agreement with Washington by using American-made warplanes in the attack.

In the harshest criticism of Israel by the Reagan Administration, the State Department also said that "the unprecedented character" of the surprise raid "cannot but seriously add to the already tense situation in the area."

With Iraq calling for a pan-Arab meeting to discuss the ramifications of the Israeli attack, there was concern within the Administration whether President Reagan's special envoy, Philip C. Habib, would be able to continue his efforts to settle the crisis caused by Israel's threat to attack Syrian missiles in Lebanon.

Mr. Habib, who flew to Paris Saturday, had planned to go to the Middle East today, with Israel his first stop, officials said. But State Department officials said that because of the raid, Mr. Habib was still in Paris, waiting for the political storm to pass.

Officials said they were not sure that Saudi Arabia or Syria would be willing to receive him now, and Mr. Habib did not want to be in Israel at a time of that Government's exhilaration over a raid that Washington has condemned.

Although the United States has been worried for some time about Iraq's acquisition of enriched uranium from France and so-called "hot cells" from Italy for its nuclear program, Dean Fischer, the State Department spokesman, noted today that Iraq was a party to the nonproliferation treaty in which it pledged not to develop nuclear explosive devices. Israel has not signed the treaty, and it has long been stated by intelligence sources that Israel has developed nuclear weapons.

"We have had no evidence that Iraq has violated its commitments under this treaty," Mr. Fischer said.

The attack, according to Mr. Fischer, came without warning to the United States. He said that the American Embassy in Israel was informed of it yesterday afternoon, which would have been several hours after the attack took place.

The White House said that Mr. Reagan was resting at Camp David when he was told about the raid over the phone by Richard V. Allen, his national security adviser.

A Flight Over Saudi Arabia

There was some initial uncertainty over what types of American planes were used. Some officials said F-16's, the newest planes in the Israeli Air Force, had done the bombing, but others said later that the raid was carried out by about 15 F-15's and F-4's, with the F-4's, armed with special precision weapons known as "smart bombs," doing the actual bombing.

The F-15's provided escort during the 1,200-mile round trip, flying above F-4's making the attack from a low level. Iraq said nine planes were involved, but officials said it was possible that the Iraqis did not know about the F-15's. Iraq said the raid occurred at 8:37 P.M. Baghdad time (11:30 A.M. Sunday Eastern daylight time). The route was over northern Saudi Arabia, officials said, with the Israelis using Jordanian call signals to mislead the Saudis and Iraqis.

According to American analysts, the raid destroyed the French-built facility but left unscathed two other installations, including one built by the Soviet Union.

'Source of Utmost Concern'

This morning, shortly after the Israeli announcement of the raid, the State Department said the incident was "clearly a very serious development and a source of utmost concern."

"Our initial estimate of potential radiation effects is that they would probably be minimal and limited to the immediate vicinity of the installation," the department said. It said that the United States was ready to help Iraq in dealing with any problems resulting from the raid.

Later, Mr. Fischer read a statement cleared by Mr. Reagan and Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig Jr. It said:

"The United States Government condemns the reported Israeli air strike on the Iraqi nuclear facility the ummura-

dented character of which cannot but seriously add to the already tense situation in the area."

"Available evidence suggests U.S.-provided equipment was employed in possible violation of the applicable agreement under which it was sold to Israel, and a report to this effect is being prepared for submission to the United States Congress in accordance with the relevant United States statute."

This is a potentially serious matter for Israel because under American law Israel is in jeopardy of having all its military aid suspended.

In 1952, the United States and Israel signed a mutual defense assistance agreement in which Israel assures this country that all equipment and material acquired from the United States "are required for and will be used solely to maintain its internal security, its legitimate self defense, or to permit it to participate in the defense of the area of which it is a part, or in United Nations collective arrangements and measures, and that it will not undertake any act of aggression against any other state."

After Turkey's invasion of Cyprus in 1974, Congress amended the Arms Export Control Act, obliging the President to report promptly possible violations of arms agreements.

Another provision of that act said foreign military assistance should be ended if a country used American arms "in substantial violation (either in terms of quantities or in terms of the gravity of the consequences regardless of the quantities involved) of any agreement entered into."

In the view of the Reagan Administration, Iraq has been pursuing a more pro-Western course in recent months, and negotiations had begun on expanding relations with the United States. There also was no certainty that Iraq was going to build a bomb, although officials have said that this possibility was there.